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J. Graham Maughan, Editor

Linda Strickler, Producer

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COVER PHOTO: The great Martian volcano, Olympus Mons, was photographed by the Viking 1 Orbiter on July 31, 1976 from a distance of 8000 kilometers (5000 miles). The 24-kilometer-high (15 miles) mountain is seen in mid-morning, wreathed in clouds that extend up the flanks to an altitude of about 19 kilometers (12 miles). The multi-ringed caldera (volcanic crater), some 80 kilometers (50 miles) across, pushes up into the stratosphere and appears cloud-free at this time. The cloud cover is most intense on the far western side of the mountain. A well-defined wave cloud train extends several hundred miles beyond the mountain (upper left). The planet's limb can be seen at upper left corner. It also shows extensive stratified hazes. The clouds are thought to be composed principally of water ice condensed from the atmosphere as it cools while moving up the slopes of the volcano. In the Martian afternoon, the clouds develop sufficiently to be seen from Earth, and it is known that they are a seasonal phenomenon largely limited to spring and summer in the northern hemisphere. Olympus Mons is about 600 kilometers (375 miles) across at the base and would extend from San Francisco to Los Angeles. (P-17444 NASA)

*U.F.O.E.S.P. is a taxpaying, grassroots organization dedicated to political action to bring about a radical recommitment of this and allied nations to the exploration and use of outer space for all. Memberships: Passive \$4.99, Active \$15.00, Lifetime \$100.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

by Linda A Strickler

Several months have passed since my last report, and this issue is one which deserves an annual report from the Treasurer. I am going to give specific figures this year, but I must emphasize that United For Our Expanded Space Programs is contributed to in many ways which are not recorded in the official account records. For example, Robert Lovell has written and financed several advertising campaigns for U.F.O.E.S.P., none of which show up in our checking account at the Treasury. Ivan Clark, as another example, has reproduced many copies of U.F.O.E.S.P. materials when Vega Chamber has become low on supplies, but the monies for these efforts are not recorded here. Both Bob and Ivan, as well as other members of the organization, have paid for many convention expenses without asking for financial assistance from Headquarters. What is shown below is a record of income (from membership dues, donations, and miscellaneous sales) and expenses (for running of Headquarters, production of Morale Booster, convention and conference expenses, etc.) as recorded in the checking account.

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$686.60
Donations	173.95
Sales	6.00
April Coalition	30.00
TOTAL	\$896.55

As can be readily seen, less than \$1000 has filtered through the account in the past year. As mentioned above, many unrecorded donations have been made to advertise and propagandize, making the \$9 listed for advertising ridiculously low. Some expenses have been borne for postage by various members; Copyrights are woefully behind in being acquired, but we are almost caught up in publication of MB. Occasionally we have been fortunate in getting our printing done for reduced cost, though far too infrequently. Much volunteer labor goes into activities for U.F.O.E.S.P. In all, the financial situation for the organization is more stable than last year, although we are currently in debt to the printers for approximately \$200 and have more printing waiting to be done.

EXPENSES

Telephone	33.53
Supplies	105.86
Printing	236.69
Conferences & Conventions	88.00
Library	39.84
Transportation	219.98
Advertising	9.00
Postage	37.06
Copyrights	18.00
Chamber Expenses	56.00
Photographs	10.00
Taxes (Florida)	.34
Campaign Contributions	22.00
April Coalition	20.00
TOTAL	<u>\$894.30</u>

We are planning to institute a cash account record when the cash flow is great enough to warrant it. For now we are requesting that members who are donating money for the benefit of the organization please report it to Headquarters so a more complete account can be made this year.

The organization was joined this year by 39 active and 38 passive members. (Some dues were received in the form of cash at conventions, which cash was used for some delegation expenses right away; therefore the amount showing in Membership Dues does not document the full amount received.) The year 1977 also brought the new classification of Lifetime Member to reward those who have donated \$100 or more to U.F.O.E.S.P.'s work. There are five Lifetime Members.

Now I would like to discuss other items in the Concrete Treasury. First, back issues of Morale Booster are available; a list will be compiled and included in an upcoming mailing to the membership. Also,

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** MEMBERSHIP ROSTER **

Gregg A. Ackley
PSC Box 4665
Dyess AFB, TX 79607

William Albin
104 Highland, Apt. 1A
Russia, OH 45363

Carol Andrews¹
2351 Washington St.
Apartment 305
San Francisco, CA 94115

David M. Anna
RD 1, Box 314
Patton, PA 16668

Michael A. Armstrong
New College #50
5700 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 33580

Joan Ann Balaris
2291 Sherry Court
Livermore, CA 94550

David & Christine Beaucage
1581 Garland Avenue
Tustin, CA 92680

Linda A. Beltz
500 North Illinois Street
Arlington, VA 22203

J. David Bennett
P.O. Box 5055
Tampa, FL 33675

David Bersson
3502 Central Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

James C. Blankenship
6732 East 39th
Tucson, AZ 85730

Ed Brault
PSC Box 3112
Minot AFB, ND 58705

John Brautlacht
P.O. Box 867
Bothell, WA 98011

Gregory Bridges
3711 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38111

Kay Briggs
P.O. Box 5077
Woss, B.C.
CANADA V0N 3P0

Bartelle Brown
13707 Doty No. 57
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Robert Brown
USF #373
Tampa, FL 33620

Jan Buchanan
1932 N.W. 2nd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32603

William Bunker
8218 So. Whitworth Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Holly Ann Burt
15133 El Soneto Drive
Whittier, CA 90605

Peter Citrak
663 Sandra Lee Court S.E.
Olympia, WA 98503

Clifton L. Clark
4812 Old Dominion Drive
Arlington, VA 22207

IVAN CLARK²
628 Chapel Street
Hampton, VA 23669

John Clark
760 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Sandy Critchlow
520--8th Steet, No. 316
New Westminster, B.C.
CANADA V3M 3S1

Sharon Crowell-Davis
Route 1, Box 33A
Auburn, AL 36830

Garry Joe Daniels
Rural Route 2
Moran, KS 66755

Clifton B. Davis
6200 West Tidwell, No. 701
Pasadena, TX 77093

Jill Eastlake
925 Dedham Street
Newton Centre, MA 02159

Elton T. Elliott
1999 Wiessner Drive N.E.
Salem, OR 97303

Amy Bouska Erbach
Department of Mathematics
V.P.I. and S.U.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Federation Trading Post
Charles Weiss, Proprietor
2556 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704

Kelly and Polly Freas
Route 4, Box 4056A
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

Linad Freeman
5422 Skyline Drive
Shawnee Mission, KS 66205

Samuel J. Friendly
1850 N.E. 142nd Street
Apartment 9T
North Miami, FL 33181

Donald "Doc" Garvey
33655 Lincoln Drive
Abbotsford, British Columbia
CANADA V2S 1S1

Nicholas P. Gerety
2360 "G" Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Ron Gillies
15920 Patricia Drive
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T5R 5N4

John P. Hedstrom
820--4th Avenue, Apt. C27
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Jan V. Hellman, M.D.
9832 York Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Jes Hinrichs
2538 Foothill Drive
Vista, CA 92083

Lyn Hopkins
710 Caroline Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Loretta Jackson
P.O. Box 26824
Tucson, AZ 85726

Jim Johnston
16504--48th Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
CANADA V3S 4N7

Richard P. Johnston
322 Adams Street
Newton, MA 02158

Timothy B. Kyger
5090 Bayside Drive
Dayton, OH 45431

Ray U. Lane, III³
4283 B So. Whitnall Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Helen Ledingham
37 Park Avenue
Chatswood, New So. Wales
AUSTRALIA 2067

Ralph Le Van
5734 Clemson
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Dannell Lites
2225 East Street
Texarkana, TX 75501

Edward M. Llano
824 West 176th St.
Apartment 5F
New York, NY 10033

ROBERT LOVELL, JR.
10908 W. 65th Terrace, No. 303
Shawnee, KS 66203

Margaret J. Lyell
1930½ So. Bedford Street
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Michael A. Mahaffey
118 Colorado
Dyess AFB, TX 79609

J. GRAHAM MAUGHAN⁴
775 Camino Del Sur
Building H, Unit 6
Isla Vista, CA 93017

Robert & Marjorie Maughan
6901 Condor Loop N.E.
Olympia, WA 98506

Gordon A. Meggison, IV
1520 Donald Street
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Ralph E. Melody
801 Highland Avenue
Wilmington, DL 19808

Michael MacDonald
858 McClelland Drive
MacDill AFB, FL 33621

Margaret McEwen
308 East Francis
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Bevin C. McKinney
P.O. Box 333
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Rosalie McVicar
215 South "K" Street
Lompoc, CA 93436

Steven C.V. Nall
PSC Box 5166
Eglin AFB, FL 32542

John Nelson
P.O. Box 341
Port Hardy, B.C.
CANADA VON 2P0

Ray Nelson
333 Ramona Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Rosa B. Oliver
9408 Michael Drive
Clinton, MD 20735

R. J. "Arjay" Ortega
204 El Campo Drive
South San Francisco, CA
94080

David Park
65 Old Brook Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Jay Parks
P.O. Box 172
Eastsound, WA 98245

Suzanne Marie Paulsruide
2407 Malad Street
Boise, ID 83705

Kenn G. Porter
1582 Thelma Close
Victoria, British Columbia
CANADA V8N 5A1

Cynthia Randall
5222 South Brighton
Seattle, WA 98118

David A. Roach
1133 Lum Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Kathleen A. Rodak
3218 South Byron Street
Seattle, WA 98114

Jeffrey Nels Roloff
2535 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

Kathryn Routliffe
26 Fownes Street
Moncton, New Brunswick
CANADA E1E 3N1

Tony Schreiber
1214--8th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
CANADA T2G 0M7

James A. Slavin
1930½ South Bedford Street
Los Angeles, CA 90034

David P. Spiek
556 East Loula
Olathe, KS 66061

Ann Steinhauer
6651 Picasso Road, No. 102
Isla Vista, CA 93017

Frank Stodolka
P.O. Box 456
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Genevieve W. Strickler
338 Wind Sun Way
Camano Island, WA 98292

LINDA ANN STRICKLER⁵
775 Camino Del Sur
Building H, Unit 6
Isla Vista, CA 93017

Jane Carol Subic
5247--15th N.E., No. 103
Seattle, WA 98105

Somtow Sucharitkul
Asian Composers Expo 78
54/1 Soi Nana North
Sukhumvit 3 Bangkok 11
THAILAND

Sidney Trim
2991 East 43rd Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
CANADA V5R 2Z4

Larry Tucker
1707 Lucille
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

Teri Wald
7680 N.W. 6th Court
Plantation, FL 33324

Anthony D. "Skip" Ward
3262 N.E. 88th
Portland, OR 97220

H. TERRY WEPSIC, M.D.
12996 Via Latina
Del Mar, CA 92017

Terrie L. "Mahara" West
P.O. Box 35045, Stn. E
Vancouver, B.C.
CANADA

Alexander S. Whitaker
54 Hassart Street
Apartment 2D
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Henry M. Wills, Jr.
7389 So. Dunrobin Court
Hanover, MD 21076

Robert Winfield
Route 2, Box 481B
Salem, VA 24153

John Woodhouse
60 Holders Hill Road
Hendon, London
ENGLAND NW4 1LR

James D. Young, Jr.
216 Kastle Road
Lexington, KY 40502

William D. Zedeker
P.O. Box 1019
Rapid City, SD 57701

William Zinardy
23 Puritan Road
Somerville, MA 02145

¹General Secretary, Antares

²General Secretary, Vega

³Assistant President for
Light Industry

⁴President

⁵Treasurer

Active Passive LIFETIME

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the Tsiolkovsky Library has continued to grow and we have a well-rounded collection of space literature. Any time members pass through this way, they are urged to come and enjoy this library. They may find themselves cajoled into helping with labor for U.F.O.E.S.P., but the work is not heavy, and adds always to the potential success of the Space Revolution.

The Abstract Treasury is also building and growing. Many fine contacts were made in the past year with both individual spacers and with spacer organizations; these contacts are being utilized in whatever way is best suited to our needs. Space Day 2 particularly needs advertising, and we intend to send press releases to many of these important contacts. Ideas continue to abound for us, and we continue to support and finance all that we can. Three U.F.O.E.S.P. members are currently working on production of a children's coloring book (THE SPACER ABC COLORING BOOK) which hopefully will be available for conventions starting late-June.

The greatest treasure of the organization is found in the membership. This year we have filled the positions of Assistant President for Light Industry (Ray U. Lane, III) and Assistant President for Interorganizational Affairs (John Hedstrom) broadening the scope of the Board of Governors to include a greater part of the United States. Far Centaurus Chamber has grown immensely and currently we seek a General Secretary. Not only are our members overtly active, but there is a flurry of activity continuing to brew concerning letting our representatives know that we want expanded space programs. The Fifth Petition to the People's Representatives will be distributed internationally shortly, beginning the mass campaign to gather 100,000 signatures.

United For Our Expanded Space Programs is strong, and growing even stronger. SPACE IS THE PLACE FOR THE NEW HUMAN RACE!****

EVAC To Mars

The past few years represent a turning point in the Space Revolution; and the many discussions of vacuum colonization in the communications industry inspired by the ideas of Dr. Gerard O'Neill have contributed to this change as much as any other factor. Now that the question of civilization's expansion off planet has moved politically to the grass-roots it is important to begin a serious search for a philosophically broad yet mundanely applicable rationale for humanity's next leap into space. In a word, direction is an increasingly vital consideration of the Space Revolution. Quite literally we must ask anew, "Where do we go from here? Everywhere? Or some (few) places in particular?"

The ideal for most spacers would be a future wherein any or all fantasies of interplanetary civilization were potent or pregnant possibilities. This ideal is constrained by the practical technological limits of our culture at this moment in time, the climate of the international community, and the development of political consciousness in spacers and educational awareness in the public at large. The last consideration is, in most important aspects, an esthetic one. But the other two are fundamentally objective considerations which have direct bearing on "hard" issues of resource development and distribution in the Solar System, efficiency of closed ecologies, economic return, and similar topics.

The many articles on World War III have not been primarily philosophical pieces. Over the past months that the planetary conflict has gotten so much attention, the goal has been to explicate the mundane reality of the crises of the day so that, once begun, discussion of the objective limits on interplanetary civilization could proceed rapidly. The details of war and upheaval in Europe, the African Horn, South Africa, and those many other exotic locales of strife are illustrations of the physical requirements of living off Earth.

The absolute first essential of life is physical security. Physical security has both macroscopic and microscopic dimensions. Limiting our attention to humans, we can see immunity reactions, food production, education, reproduction, public debate on law enforcement or national defense as only some of the manifestations of this biological concern with physical security. Some people think the species is obsessed with questions of security but examination of dogs, monkeys, elephants, or termites provides evidence of the universal character of the first essential of life.

Threats to existence are so numerous that ranking them is more often than not an absurd exercise. Yet some gross understanding of this quantitative dimension of physical security is possible. For organisms which are highly socialized, danger frequently is a group experience and is so resolved. Humans are the most highly socialized organisms of all Terran life and the most serious threats or disruptive agents for human beings are social ones. With World War III compounded by nuclear proliferation, the entire future of the species is called into question, not abstractly or vaguely, but objectively and concretely.

The conclusion to be drawn from the details and evolution of World War III (see "Space or War: A Speech" in October 1977 issue of MB) is that millions are destined to die in the near future on the (nuclear) battlefields of the conflict. The question to ask at this point is whether or not the specific individuals comprising those millions of casualties are random victims or predetermined ones.

The conflict comprises many variables and is not dominated by one or two to the exclusion of others. Being very fluid, World War III may take

any turn in the future and thus we are all equally likely to become part of the body count. However, the battles are confined to fairly specific places and thus some of us have more to worry about from sudden turns in the war than others. It seems at least intuitively clear that someone in the Ogaden, an European capital, Ulster, or Democratic Kampuchea risks death far more than someone in the American Midwest, Australia, or Costa Rica.

For those of North America in particular (and of the Pacific Basin more generally), a unique opportunity presents itself during the period 1978-1984. Not directly engaged on the battlefields of the planetary war, the peoples of this region do not have the agonizing choice of surrender or continued bloodshed. Possessed of on the whole free and democratic societies, they have the potential of maximum mobilization that comes from capitalism's emphasis on free enterprise and individual initiative. Masters of the technology of the future and creators of the most productive economies the world has ever seen, those who live in the U.S.A., Canada, (Australia, New Zealand, and Japan) can insure their physical security at home and abroad with bold and unhesitating commitment to the work, sacrifice, and challenge of interplanetary civilization.

In the most mundane terms, physical security is a question of one's standard of living. The standard of living can only be maintained, let alone extended to those poor and unable to share it, through economic expansion. This tenet applies irrespective of the economic regime (communist, capitalist, socialist, fascist, etc.). Until October 4, 1957, expansion could only take place on the surface of Earth. With the success of Soyuz 26 and 27, permanent habitation off planet begins and proves with each successive day the cosmic destiny of the species.

And thankfully so. Because expansion on Earth in the Nuclear Age when the Third World is struggling to match the First World in power and standard of living, means nuclear confrontation with the Third World (the Second World of Socialist States faces the same predicament as the First World of Industrial Democracies). Thus, the choice is between expansion on Earth (with nuclear disaster) and expansion off Earth (with peace and prosperity). No one can say what spoils the victors of Terran expansion will achieve, but there is no question that they are more frightening than the ones the victors of interplanetary expansion will obtain.

Physical security depends on independence, isolation, and self-sufficiency. On Earth, these attributes can be assured or fortified through implementation of policies which shift expansion off planet, insure strict neutrality in World War III, and builds with select allies of similar neutral persuasions. Off Earth, independence, isolation, and self-sufficiency are straightforward propositions whose meaning is simple: completely autonomous space settlements at the fastest pace.

This approach is not solely for the settlers' benefit. However rewarding it would be for the settlers to have to depend on Terra in no regard, equal rewards of national security would accrue to the nations responsible for the settlements' establishment. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 provides that no claims of national sovereignty shall apply to any celestial bodies. But nations exist as a set of many characteristics; and territory (beyond rights of usufructure) is not intrinsically the most important one. Language, clothing, history, ethnic composition, social customs, temperament, and political structure are only some of the other major dimensions of nationhood. In a very real sense, nations exist wherever groups of people who live the national life are to be found. Thus, though Russia, France, or America cannot extend their national sovereign boundaries to any part of Luna, each and all can recreate their national characters there. Squatters' rights is the basis of this situation as long as we modify them to reflect the "Common Heritage of Man" doctrine (the national or bloc settlement off planet at

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S T I M U L U S

January 28, 1978

. E S N O P S E R

Dear Graham,

Sorry I [harrassed you] in my last letter. I feel I must apologize for this as I received your letter concerning publication of my July 15th communication the day after I mailed my letter to you. Sorry about that, Boss! Sorry to see the verbal [attack] by Robert Lovell. I could not actually see Mr. Lovell's words as true because you and I did talk as though we were old friends after I joined U.F.O.E.S.P. in July at Westercon 30. Paranoia? Insanity? Egomania and many other failings? Literal Don "Doc" Garvey Translation please. . . Ah, here it is. . . BULLSHIT!!!

Either Lovell is right and we're both totally nuts, or he's the one who's out of it. Anyway, enough of that. The correspondence here has not been too heavy. . . actually, none besides your letters. I have not received a reply from Mahara yet. I am hoping that we can meet together eventually in order to get into a brainstorming session of U.F.O.E.S.P. in Far Centaurus Chamber. Kahn has been out of touch, too, huh? Weird. Key people abandoning key positions. Really crazy.

I am member and past Vice-President of the Ad Astra Science-Fiction Society. The members know about my "appointment" as Unofficial Assistant to Far Centaurus Chamber and I have received some feedback on our ideas as well as names of two or three people who are interested in Revolution. I am trying to think out some strategy to hold a combination meeting of Ad Astra and U.F.O.E.S.P. Actually, this approach has already been mentioned in several meetings of Ad Astra. The next meeting is on the 23rd of November. At the meeting I intend to see about getting both Ad Astra and U.F.O.E.S.P. into the British Columbia Science-Fiction Association.

Didn't get to Loscon 4 because of lack of funds and school's interfering. I am glad I am graduating this year! I think I can spend a bit of time lecturing during the summer. I am returning to work in January from which I hope I can raise enough money to get to VanCon 6 in Vancouver May 26-28. Then on to Westercon 31 in California from July 1-4. After that I am considering going around to see a few people in California as a bit of a graduation present to myself. With any luck, sometime in July I could get down to Santa Barbara to see you and Linda.

I have to cover a banquet at The School today, so I will have to sign off for the present.

Doc Garvey
33655 Lincoln Drive
Abbotsford, B.C.
CANADA V2S 1S1

Penetration is the first essential of unity in the Space Revolution. It is easy to talk about banding together to fight for the Glorious Cause of interplanetary civilization. But unity comes from objective behavior and concrete actions. And not just any (random) selection of such behaviors or actions. They must be ones that link up in a physical way the resources or the controllers of the resources. This linkage can only be assured through adequate penetration of the defenses and insecurities of those with whom one seeks alliance. For this reason the Board of Governors encourage the members to join other organizations, write for other publications, create local projects with non-aligned spacers, conduct independent operations promoting the Space Revolution (autonomous artistic presentations at s-f conventions, private advertisements in s-f magazines to build contacts, etc.), or merge with other futurian elements. Penetrate into all regions of struggle, cadres!

Traveling provides unexpected and numerous opportunities to strengthen contacts within the Space Revolution. Members should take advantage of any circumstances which bring them near one another. They should not hesitate to contact one another while out and about the planet. The more we work together, the quicker we leave Earth for adventures in the Universe. But personal friendships are not contradictory with constant work for expansion off planet or organizational efforts for U.F.O.E.S.P. Spacers should not hesitate to develop coincidental experiences for fun as well as profit. Herein lies the meaning of conducting the Space Revolution as an open conspiracy. *** The Editor.

Dear Graham,

WANTED.

I have just begun work on a major project in which I will collect, classify, annotate, and ultimately publish what is intended to be the definitive collection of those all important laws, principles and bits of conventional wisdom which guide our lives.

Examples: The Buttered-Side Down Law (an object will fall as to do the most damage); Murphy's Ninth Law (Nature always sides with the hidden flaw); The Ultimate Law of Accuracy (when working toward the solution of a problem, it always helps to know the answer); Parkinson's Law of 1000 (any enterprise employing more than 1000 people becomes a self-perpetuating empire, creating so much internal work that it no longer needs any contact with the outside world); The Supermarket (also, Bank and Post Office) Law (the shortest line moves the slowest).

There are hundreds of these rules now current which are begging to be assembled between the covers of a book. I will be everlastingly appreciative and give full credit to those who would like to share their favorite law or laws with me for this collection. I would also like any background information on the law in question (for whom it is named, is it particularly appropriate to one field, etc.). I am also collecting theories (no matter how seemingly outlandish) as to whom the great prophet Murphy was or is.

P.S. Thanks for your encouraging letter about The Future File. Hope the book helps with Space Day 2.

P²S. Have you seen my other new book, Out Of This World, about space photography? If not, tell me and I will get the publisher to send you a review copy.

Paul Dickson, Writer
P.O. Box 80
Garrett Park, MD 20766

In the December 1976-January 1977 issue of Morale Booster we printed a letter by Mr. Dickson requesting information for a book on futurism and futurians. A week before Christmas, while shopping in Santa Barbara, we noticed in the display window of a bookstore, The Future File: A guide for people with one foot in the 21st century by Paul Dickson. Rushing inside the store (after hastily eating the rest of our ice-cream cones), we looked excitedly through the text and discovered on page 200 the listing of U.F.O.-E.S.P. in the select group of six spacer organizations the author chose as most representative of the Space Revolution. Paul's latest project is not directly related to our work but co-operation with independent propagandists of the future can only rebound to our benefit in time. *** The Editor.

Dear Mr. Maughan,

Your package arrived today with my materials as a new member in U.F.O.-E.S.P. While the materials you sent were indeed informative, I fear I have

many more questions which remain unanswered.

I do share U.F.O.E.S.P.'s interest in Space and Space Venture but I think my leanings may be evolving in a somewhat different direction than the one chosen by the organization as indicated by the literature you sent. Still, I must confess that many of my own ideas are still in the formative stages which makes my desire for information and idea exchanges that much more intense.

I would like to know more about U.F.O.E.S.P. The materials I received suggest that an awful lot has been done by a relatively small group, which observation leads to a number of possible conclusions: 1) the group possesses resources well beyond what one would normally expect from such a relatively small group; or 2) the group has spread itself rather thinly over an ambitious spectrum which would raise the question of actual effectiveness. Can you give me any insight into what is actually the case? Just what resources (people and capital; active/passive, etc.) does the group possess? How specifically have these resources been used, and what have been the actual results?

Please don't misunderstand; while I may come across somewhat aggressively there is no malice or ill-will intended for U.F.O.E.S.P. (after all, I am a new member!). The simple fact is that the more intimate and comprehensive understanding I have of that with which I become involved, the more comfortable I feel, and the more effective I believe my participation can be. Ideally, I would like to be familiar with "everything" from the word go to present, though I recognize that this ideal might be a bit much to ask.

In short, my first desire is to learn as much about U.F.O.E.S.P. as you can give in as much detail as possible.

My second desire is to find what resources you have for further information on parallel and related groups, individuals, organizations, etc. As I said, I am in an information-collecting stage with my own thinking and so I wish to have as many sources to explore as possible.

To repeat again, I think I may be going in a somewhat different direction than U.F.O.E.S.P. I think that trying to argue the relative merits of "your way" versus "my way" would be like debating the relative merits of protein and carbohydrates in the human diet. I would expect that my tentative approach and yours are at worst complimentary.

My tentative position is that Space Venture (exploration, travel, colonization, exploitation, and so on) is possible now on a commercial basis. Further, I suspect that the question of which government or political interest dominates Space Venture is extremely important because it will fall to the commercial sector to achieve any kind of significant progress in the area. Metaphorically, the government may provide the pioneers but the merchants are the ones who will have to make Space Venture a reality.

I do believe that it is possible to do it now on a commercial basis. It is true that the initial cost seems to be a tremendous impediment but I believe it can be overcome. It definitely won't be easy but this country has already accomplished many difficult things in the past and there is no reason to think she can't do this, too.

Once the initial capital is achieved I think the rest would be much easier. Present technology can be used to begin almost any kind of Space Venture and I can think of at least one which could probably pay for itself and bring a handsome return as well. One or two ventures only need come up in the Profit Column to stimulate such an explosive rush into space that cost would cease to be even a minor question.....all with present technology! (No doubt you see at least an equal technological revolution, too, but it can happen on what we have today--and the improvements would be gravy.)

You want to motivate the Government? In this country, anyhow, the fastest way to do that is to put it on a money-making basis....then you won't be able to keep them out of it.

This is an end towards which I am interested and willing to work. My efforts are only just beginning and my first step is an information search. I am not interested in duplicating efforts or stealing anyone else's thunder, so I want to know what is happening, who, where, how, etc. Once the "home-work" is done the next step is an idea exchange and the beginning of some sort of mobilized and organized support (if such an organization is already available and proves to be viable, all the better). Finally, a consolidated and co-ordinated campaign must be launched to raise the money. After that, it is downhill all the way.

Feedback, comments, and ideas appreciated! Also, please help me contact anyone else who might be interested in similar discussions. Pass my name and address along freely and I would be pleased to accept the name and address of anyone you think I might want to contact.

*William Zedeker
P.O. Box 1019
Rapid City, SD 57709*

The philosophy of U.F.O.E.S.P. is maximum advance insofar as our work or projects are concerned. This policy means that as soon as resources of goods, services, contacts, or personnel come to the organization they are thrown into the struggle to insure our futures off planet. The policies which result from this philosophy create a certain ragged character to our work but the successes that result are more than worth this aesthetic loss. When we have many, many hundreds of members a more conservative interpretation of this doctrine will hold sway. For the time until then, the radical view prevails and the organization works continually on the brink. This comment provides the perfect opening for a brief harangue to the membership to re-examine their commitment to the Space Revolution to discover, create, or see some unknown or hidden contribution they can make to the success of the struggle to expand civilization to Mars and beyond. Those with an artistic bent should consider some art for posters, flyers, or MB. Those who think they have a way with words should write some article or monograph on one or more of the vital aspects of the Space Revolution. Are you slightly more wealthy this week than last? U.F.O.E.S.P. accepts donations of all sizes, no matter how small or large. Representation at spacer events, strengthened contacts with other elements on the vanguard of the Revolution, access to printing, supplies, and transportation services are only the most immediately recalled areas or ways members can aid the critical fight to install Terrans in other parts of the Solar System. The Space Revolution wants YOU!

As capitalist as America is, the government of the nation responds to questions of national security more readily than to any other interests, even economic ones. It is true that for the ruling class national security interests are frequently synonymous with economic ones but in a time of planetary conflict the two have distinct and profound differences. The fastest way, which must be the best way for reasons of simple survival, to mobilize the masses for space is to do so with the strongest appeal to their governments, already committed to expansion off planet, to deepen their offworld efforts to save themselves from destruction. This appeal would be meaningless even in a time of world war but for the fact that World War III is based on nuclear proliferation beyond control and thus nuclear holocaust, big or small, is fundamentally inevitable. Space is the place for the new human race! *** The Ed.

Dear Graham,

When I read your response to Cynthia Randall in the June-July MB, I was dismayed at it because it impressed me as being very fractious. Whether making Revolution, or dancing minuets of etiquette, it falls upon the leader

to exercise extreme caution in s/his interactions with those whom s/he is trying to lead.

Anyone who begins to occupy the limelight draws all sorts of responses and reactions from the public. In your role as President of U.F.O.E.S.P., you must expect this. Some of your most ardent admirers may simultaneously be your severest critics. (It is partly because they DO admire you that they want you to be the best you can possibly be.)

Most of Cynthia's remarks were about correspondence about which I know nothing, so I can't comment on those. Her comments on your "explosive" and "negative" behavior may strike you as beyond her prerogative. However, the fact is that she obviously felt that way and felt it important enough to take the time to write it out. Remember, she could have kept silent or severed relations with you. More than her comments, however, to me it was significant that you were seemingly very contentious in your reply.

Consider this: if Cynthia, who has known you for some time, sees your conduct and exhortations in a negative way, isn't it possible that others who don't know you may react in the same way? And, in this light, shouldn't her feelings be given some consideration? Might not your reply to her cause some of the members and readers to step back from what we are really trying to accomplish, namely, to attract sensible and intelligent people to the cause?

It seems to me that Cynthia was trying to be constructive in her comments and suggestions to you. (The fact that you don't agree with her opinion doesn't change anything.) It seems to me you made the same mistake you accused her of making; namely, confusing the message with the messenger. You have nothing to lose, and perhaps something to gain, by giving reflective attention to what Cynthia said. There may be others who have shared her opinion but had neither the inclination to risk your wrath nor the caring concern to take the time and effort to express their feelings and opinions.

It seems to me that Cynthia was pleading with you to present your concerns in such a way that your hearers (and readers) are not antagonized by your delivery of the message you want to convey. (How often all of us fail to consider the effect of HOW we say WHAT we say. We may err in thinking that passionate recital of our themes will convey the depths of our concerns.)

In the last three sentences in the second full paragraph on page 6 of the MB I felt that you did yourself great injustice. As I read it, it sounded as though you were saying that no one can point ways in which another might change. And you certainly made it clear that Cynthia is not to suggest changes to you!

In all that I have said, I have tried to make it clear that in this matter I am expressing my feelings--speaking their truth as I see it. It is your prerogative to disagree with every word of it--but it will not change how I feel. That is the fact and the analysis as I see it.

Genevieve W. Strickler
338 Wind Sun Way
Camano Island, WA 98292

There is a certain excitement to railing against the obstacles to the Space Revolution but I do not adopt a purposefully abrasive or antagonistic demeanor. But the question of the value of confrontation is not an idle one, for which reason I have extended an originally covert discussion into a major overt one in the pages of MB. My difficulty all along has been that I have not wished to defend myself and so have chosen to limit the exposure of the precipitating series of letters between U.F.O.E.S.P. and the concoms about CHRYSE-1; but this limited exposure makes the furore over my leadership in the matter somewhat confusing. The point I have been trying to make is that sometimes, in order to make progress, we will have to "ride roughshod"

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least ostensibly protects the common interests of humanity and benefits all the species).

Let us plunge into the argument. Mars is the best first site for settlement off Earth because, more than any other place in the Solar System today besides the home world, Mars is ours! This statement is applicable equally to ease of settlement, scientific and economic return, and, most importantly, interests of national security. The time necessary to go to Mars one-way is approximately 11 months, depending on the relative positions of the planets, how big the payload, and how fast (expensive) one wants to go. If we imagine the United States adopting a crash program to settle Mars before the end of the century and then succeeding in that aim, we can well imagine an outpost of the Republic which would be invulnerable essentially to surprise attack or inexorable drag into the frontlines of World War III. What is more, this settlement would constitute the finest group of Americans (more broadly, Solar Allies) with the finest technology of the System; turned to revenge, all Terra might well rue this outpost of the Republic.

Independence and self-sustenance would be goals the Martian environment would simultaneously promote by the rigors of the alien planet and the aids to human life interspersed thereon. The distance from Earth and the frigid climate would make supply missions on a continuous basis from Earth enormously expensive. Thus the colonists would have every incentive to establish their closed ecology. Yet the planet is by no means a wasteland. Vast water resources are present year-round at the North and perhaps South Poles. The evidence for flowing water on the surface of Mars in the (long-distant) past may well be evidence for large reservoirs of water bonded to the soil in selected places far from the poles. The atmosphere, though thin, contains all the elements necessary for life and, being over 90% carbon dioxide, would be particularly exciting for horticulture experiments. The atmosphere could be simply pumped up into a dome or other enclosure on Mars to provide an adequate atmosphere for a greenhouse.

The thinness of the air on Mars might actually be useful. Because Mars is half again as far away from the sun as Earth, it receives considerably less solar energy per unit of surface area than Earth. However, there would be compensation in that more ultraviolet radiation would reach the surface proportionate to the total luminous flux than on Earth (the reactivity of the Martian soil and the unexpected brightness of the day are two indications of this compensation). Furthermore, the thin air coupled with the lower gravity would make possible the construction of large structures, perhaps devices to take advantage of the constant wind recorded and photographed by the Viking Landers and Orbiters. Solar power and windmills are practical options for energy sources on Terra and there appears great potential for them on Mars as well.

In general, Mars is the most suitable next place of permanent settlement beyond our world because it is so much like our world. The proponents of the L-5 Colonies stress how Earthlike they want the colonies to be (although they grant an infinitude of environments) so we can see that similarities to Earth are important for all thinkers on interplanetary civilization. Mars rotates on its axis once every 24½ hours. It is tilted on its axis only a fraction of a degree differently than Earth. The Martian year is approximately 680 days, less than twice our own. The seasons are the same on Mars but a bit longer. The day is the same and the environment of water icecaps, wind and weather, canyons, volcanoes, and old stream beds is one that Terrans would have no difficulty accepting easily. Indeed, the most frequent remark made about the color photographs of the surface was the striking similarity of view to the American Southwest, particularly Arizona and New Mexico.

Vacuum colonization has received so much publicity in recent years that

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over the sensibilities of others, even people with whom we normally would adopt the most co-operative posture. By no means should spacers look for opportunities to be brash or disruptive. But they should have a fine sense of when determination to advance outweighs all other factors and have no hesitation about pushing forward at such times even if it risks confrontation.

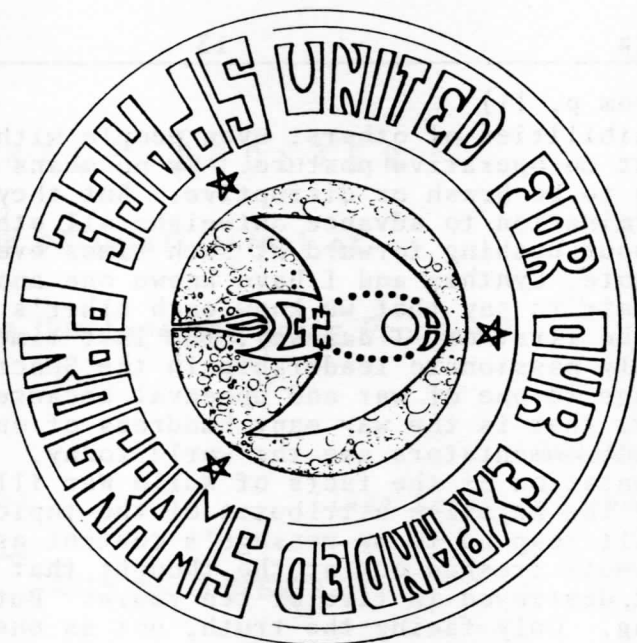
As you note, Cynthia and I have known one another for some time and I think it is fair to say that we know each other's arguments equally well. This is not the first or, I daresay, the last time we have discussed the value of my admittedly passionate leadership in the Space Revolution. The fact is that my message is one of war and upheaval because that is not only the way I see reality, that is the way many hundreds of objective journalists, diplomats, and commentators see the world today. Consequently, not only will my presentation of the facts of World War III and the Space Revolution carry some of the negative attributes of the topics themselves, but people in general will respond to my message's content as if it were the style. People are simply freaked out at the thought that we probably will be, for the most part, destroyed in five or ten years. But being freaked out won't solve anything. Only facing the truth, not as one or another single person sees it but as many serious others perceive it, and acting upon it will give us any hope of pulling through the coming Collapse with any semblance of nationhood or civilization. I can't believe that this historical juncture isn't something to get excited about. *** The Editor.

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people readily overlook the fact that humans (and all life as we know it) have evolved over many millenia on a planet and not inside a whirling tincan in the depths of the Void. The physiological and psychological implications of this fact are not solely abstract considerations. The calcium loss in the bones recorded for all who have gone into space is continual and can only be stopped or reversed by removal to a (strong) gravity field for an extended period of time. In the early 1960s, NASA conducted some experiments with mice and rats in which they were reared in the absence of a gravity field. By the third generation, the animals were sterile. The light flashes in the eyes reported first by Gemini astronauts are actually photon receptors in the eye being destroyed by random cosmic rays (which our atmosphere, and other atmospheres, prevent from reaching the planetary surface). Although not strictly a medical consideration, perhaps the most important difference between Mars and a vacuum colony at a lunar LaGrange point is that the orbit of Mars is stable whereas that of the LaGrange points are not (except theoretically). Dr. B.E. Schutz of the University of Texas at Austin delivered an excellent paper on this topic at the AAS conference last October in which he showed that after two to five years, the L-5 and L-4 points begin, due to gravitational perturbations of the sun, to move around a region hundreds of thousands of kilometers across. Mars is ours if only because we know where it is all the time.

We can gain an appreciation for Martian possibilities through a brief examination of a completely Terran development. John F. Strickler, Jr., a retired aeronautical engineer, in response to the 1973-74 Oil Embargo, designed and built a house he calls EVAC (Energy at Very Acceptable Cost) in which he comfortably resides today. Facing south with a water reservoir behind it and three sides buried in a hill, the EVAC passively heats itself with solar energy. The plan for the house includes provision for one or more windmills to generate electricity for home electrical uses (appliances, lights, etc.). The Martian environment is far harsher than that of Camano Island, Washington so many technical details of an EVAC on Mars would differ enormously from such a home on Earth. But the principles of self-reliance and use of appropriate (soft) technology have generality and significance throughout the Solar System. We can EVAC to Mars. Only will and imagination now prevent us. ***

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